

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (original): A component assembly comprising:
a ceramic part;
a metal part comprised of a noble metal; and
a titanium-nickel interlayer material disposed between and in contact with a surface of the ceramic part and a surface of the metal part wherein the ceramic part and the metal part are bonded together by means of said titanium-nickel interlayer material.
2. (original): The component assembly of claim 1 wherein said titanium-nickel interlayer material being a laminate foil.
3. (original): The component assembly of claim 1 wherein said component assembly being biocompatible to be suitable for use in living tissue.
4. (original): The component assembly of claim 1 wherein said titanium-nickel interlayer being comprised of 50% nickel and 50% titanium.
5. (original): The component assembly of claim 1 wherein said titanium-nickel interlayer being comprised of 67% titanium and 33% nickel.
6. (original): The component assembly of claim 1 wherein said ceramic part being selected from the group consisting of alumina, titania, zirconia, stabilized-zirconia, partially-stabilized zirconia, tetragonal zirconia polycrystal, magnesia-stabilized zirconia, ceria-stabilized zirconia, calcia-stabilized zirconia, and yttria-stabilized zirconia.

7. (original): The component assembly of claim 1 wherein
said noble metal being selected from the group consisting of platinum,
iridium, palladium, ruthenium, rhodium, and their respective alloys.

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